

(1931) record a somewhat similar tumour which was first removed surgically and, recurring after a short time, was successfully treated by radium. It is interesting to note in the present series (Cases 3 and 4), the difference in response to radium of two growths which histologically are very similar. Generally it would seem if the situation of the growth is such that it does not readily permit of removal of a wedge of normal tissue together with the tumour, surgical interference should be abandoned in favour of radium.

I am indebted to Dr. R. S. Allison, Dr. F. P. Montgomery, and to Mr. Howard Stevenson, for permission to publish the various cases together with the clinical details. I should like also to acknowledge my indebtedness to Professor Young for his advice in the preparation of this paper.

REFERENCES.

- BLACKLOCK, J. W. S., and MACARTNEY, C., 1932, *Jour. of Path. and Bact.*, vol. 35, p. 69.
CAPPELL, D. F., 1929, *Jour. of Path. and Bact.*, vol. 32, p. 293.
CLAIBORN, L. N., and FERRIS, H. W., 1931, *Arch. of Surg.*, vol. 23, p. 477.
EWING, J., 1928, *Neoplastic Diseases*, Third Edition, p. 323.
ROGERS, H., 1929-30, *Brit. Jour. of Surg.*, vol. 17, p. 518.
ROSENWASSER, H., 1930, *The Laryngoscope*, vol. 40, p. 576.
RÖSSLE (quoted by Claiborn and Ferris), 1926, *Schweiz. med. Wenschr.*, vol. 56, p. 302.
SHAW, A. F. B., 1923, *Jour. of Path. and Bact.*, vol. 26, p. 125.
STEWART, M. J. and TAYLOR, A. L., 1932, *Jour. of Path. and Bact.*, vol. 35, p. 541.

IRISH MASTERS OF MEDICINE

No. 1—HENRY MACCORMAC, M.D.

SPEAKING at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association held in Belfast in 1909, the President, Sir William Whitla, claimed for Dr. MacCormac a place amongst the immortals because of his pioneer work on the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. MacCormac was born at Fairlaw, County Armagh, in 1800. He was a student of medicine in Dublin, Paris, and Edinburgh, and in 1824 obtained the degree of M.D. of Edinburgh University. He settled in Belfast, and became a physician in the General Hospital in 1828; then, as a reward for the excellence of his work, he was appointed to the Chair of Medicine in Queen's College, Belfast, in 1836. His reputation was at first gained by his work on the treatment of cholera, during the great epidemics of 1828 and 1834; but the work which will keep his memory for ever green is associated with the treatment of tuberculosis. He published a work in 1855 entitled "The Nature, Treatment, and Prevention of Pulmonary Consumption, and Incidentally of Scrofula," in London, Paris, and Leipzig, which for the first time claimed phthisis and surgical tuberculosis to be one and the same disease. In this work he dwelt, with almost painful repetition, on the

influence of impure or rebreathed air as a predisposing and as a vital cause of tuberculosis. And further, he advocates, also for the first time, the open-air treatment of both the medical and surgical varieties of this disease. It is unfortunately necessary to emphasise MacCormac's claims to priority in this matter, since these have been somewhat overlooked by the prominence given to the valuable work of Hermann Brehmer. This worker, in 1856, i.e., a year *after* the publication of MacCormac's treatise, published a work which contained the same views as those advanced by MacCormac. Brehmer's work gained a much wider circulation than that of MacCormac, and as a result it is generally, though erroneously, thought that Brehmer was the originator of the open-air treatment of tuberculosis. In MacCormac's work it is stated: "For a long period of years I have with an increasing fullness of conviction discerned the undesirable results flowing from an ill-renewed atmosphere. I am perhaps the only physician of my time and standing, possibly the only one, who is intimately and entirely convinced that consumption is not only when taken early very often removable, but, what is of still greater importance, that with proper means and appliances, it is in every single instance preventable."

For prevention he claims that bedroom windows should be kept open day and night, and as much time as possible should be spent in the open air. For those already suffering from the disease he insists upon a ceaseless and unlimited supply, day and night, winter and summer, of pure fresh air, in the room of the sufferer, and that the patient should spend as much time in the open air as the season and weather permit. He further emphasises the importance of a liberal supply of highly nutritious food.

These words, taken from MacCormac's work of 1855, may be taken as containing every vital essential of the most modern methods for the treatment of tuberculosis.

So strong was MacCormac's belief in the value of open air, that on occasion he figured in the police court, having been summoned by angry patients for smashing, with his walking-stick, the panes of glass in the windows of sick-rooms when he found them "hermetically sealed."

He often complained of the thorny path of the innovator. As he described it: "To cleanse the Augean stable was a very trifle compared with the difficulties encountered by him who would unmask a single prejudice, supersede a single habit, however hurtful and pernicious to his kind."

MacCormac was widely travelled. Before settling in Belfast, he visited the Cape of Good Hope, and journeyed overland to Sierra Leone in order to study the habits and customs of the native tribes. He crossed the Atlantic twice and made extensive tours throughout North America. He was deeply versed in classical foreign literature, and had a knowledge of at least twenty languages. He died on 26th May, 1886.

—R. H. H.

No. 2—ROBERT GRAVES, M.D.

ROBERT GRAVES, whose descendants still live in the County Armagh, is one of the most illustrious physicians in the long history of medicine. He was born in 1795,

and after an uneventful boyhood travelled to Dublin, where he acquired all the medical learning that city in the early nineteenth century afforded. He graduated M.D. of Dublin University in 1818. He then spent three years travelling abroad, studying in Edinburgh, London, and some of the Continental medical schools. At the end of this period he was appointed to the Meath Street Dispensary, Dublin, where he began a series of changes in the teaching of medical students which earned for him a worldwide reputation.

When Graves settled in Dublin, clinical investigation and clinical teaching could scarcely be said to exist. Students were not regularly called upon to investigate cases for themselves, nor did they receive instruction in the methods of clinical diagnosis. Indeed, at this period it was possible for a student to obtain a medical degree without any practice in the diagnosis or treatment of disease, or even in the writing of prescriptions. In his introductory address to students at the Meath Street Dispensary in 1821, he said :

“Often have I regretted that under the present system, experience is only to be acquired at a considerable expense of human life. There is, indeed, no concealing the truth—the melancholy truth—that numbers of lives are annually lost in consequence of maltreatment. The victims selected for this sacrifice at the shrine of experience generally belong to the poorer classes of society, and their immolation is never long delayed when a successful candidate for a dispensary commences the discharge of his duty. The rich, however, do not always escape; nor is the possession of wealth in every instance a safeguard against the blunders of inexperience.”

The plan that Graves adopted in medical teaching consisted in giving to advanced students charge over particular patients, requiring them to report the “origin, progress, and present state of their diseases.” At the bedside these reports were verified or corrected by Graves himself, and then, in the lecture-room, he discussed with the class the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of the cases. The pupil in charge prescribed for these patients, and his prescriptions were revised as Graves thought fit.

The system of clinical clerkships in vogue in all teaching hospitals to-day, not only in Ireland, but in England and Scotland, is based on methods introduced by Graves, and it is a lasting memorial to his abilities as an innovator and as a teacher. The advantages of the system are obvious; the student is obliged to give reasons for every diagnosis which he makes, for every plan of treatment which he suggests, and he early becomes accustomed to making careful clinical observations and notes.

Although Graves did much for the advancement of medical education, the work on which his reputation stands is his “Clinical Lectures on the Practice of Medicine,” which he published in 1843. This work gained for him an international reputation, and was translated into several foreign languages. The introduction by Trousseau to the French edition shows the high reputation which Graves had acquired. He writes :

“I have constantly read, and re-read, the work of Graves, and I have been inspired by it in my teaching. The lectures on scarlatina, paralysis, pulmonary affections, cough, headaches, have acquired a European reputation. When he inculcated the necessity of giving nourishment in long-continued fevers, the Dublin physician,

single-handed, assailed an opinion which appeared to be justified by the practice of all ages. Had he rendered no other service than that of completely reversing medical practice upon this point, Graves would by that act alone have acquired an indefensible claim to our gratitude. Graves is, in my acceptation of the term, a perfect clinical teacher; an attentive observer, a profound philosopher, an ingenious artist, and an able therapist, he commends to our admiration the art whose domain he enlarges, and the practice of which he renders more useful and more fertile."

These lectures contain many ideas new to the period in which they were written. Attention, for the first time, is drawn to the "pinhole pupil" of pontine hæmorrhage, and to the use of the watch in timing a pulse; while the old lowering or anti-phlogistic treatment of fevers is rejected. Early descriptions of angio-neurotic œdema and scleroderma are given, and there is such an accurate account of exophthalmic goitre that the disease since then has been known as Graves' disease. He died of cancer of the liver in 1853.

—R. H. H.

No. 3—SIR DOMINIC JOHN CORRIGAN.

SIR DOMINIC CORRIGAN, although a graduate of Edinburgh University, was an Irishman by birth, having been born in Dublin on 1st December, 1802. It was, too, in Ireland he lived and practised, and where, as a physician to the Meath Street Dispensary, Dublin, he made the series of clinical observations which gained for him a worldwide reputation. His first important paper, published in the Dublin Medical Transactions of 1830, five years after obtaining his degree, was entitled "On the Motions and Sounds of the Heart." This paper embodies experimental investigations on the hearts of fishes and reptiles, and shows the clear and deliberate reasoning of a well-stored scientific mind. At this time he was greatly influenced in his work by reading "The Lives of British Physicians, from Linacre to Gooch." He afterwards stated that this book showed him that "there is but one road to excellence and success in our profession, and that is by steady study and hard labour."

But the paper which contains the observations for which he is most noted was published in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal in 1832. It is entitled "Permanent Patency of the Mouth of the Aorta," and it opens with the following statement: "The disease to which the above name is given has not, as far as I am aware, been described in any of the works on diseases of the heart. The object of the present paper is to supply that deficiency. The disease is not uncommon. It supplies a considerable proportion of cases of deranged action of the heart, and it deserves attention from its peculiar signs, its progress, and its treatment. The pathological essence of the disease consists in inefficiency of the valvular apparatus at the mouth of the aorta, in consequence of which the blood sent into the mouth regurgitates into the ventricle. This regurgitation, and the signs by which it is denoted, are not necessarily connected with one particular change of structure in the valvular apparatus." Corrigan draws attention in this paper to the peculiar quality of the pulse in cases of aortic incompetency—a full pulse followed by almost complete

collapse. It has since been known as the "waterhammer pulse," but to all Irishmen it will ever be known by the name given to it when first described: "Corrigan's pulse." He also describes in this paper the strong visible pulsation in the arteries of the head and neck, which bound into position with each beat of the heart, and become prominent below the skin.

Corrigan's activities were not confined to the study of the heart. His contributions to our knowledge of fevers is a noteworthy one, and he insists on what at his time was considered a radical view, that typhoid and typhus fever were distinct entities. He also found time to act as vice-chancellor of the Senate of the Queen's University of Ireland, and to act as a member of the General Medical Council. In both of these positions he did much to raise the standard of medical education not only in Ireland, but throughout England and Scotland.

Sir Dominic Corrigan died from an attack of "paralysis" on 1st February, 1880.

—R. H. H.

Curious Advertisements of Old Ulster Physicians

By SAMUEL SIMMS, M.D., B.SC., D.P.H., M.R.C.P.I.

I RECENTLY discovered some curious medical advertisements, which were published in the columns of "The Northern Star," a newspaper which was issued in Belfast from 1792 till 1797. These illustrate a feature of medical practice in the eighteenth century which has now become entirely obsolete, but which was quite common at that date. The first was published in the issue of March 14—19, 1796:

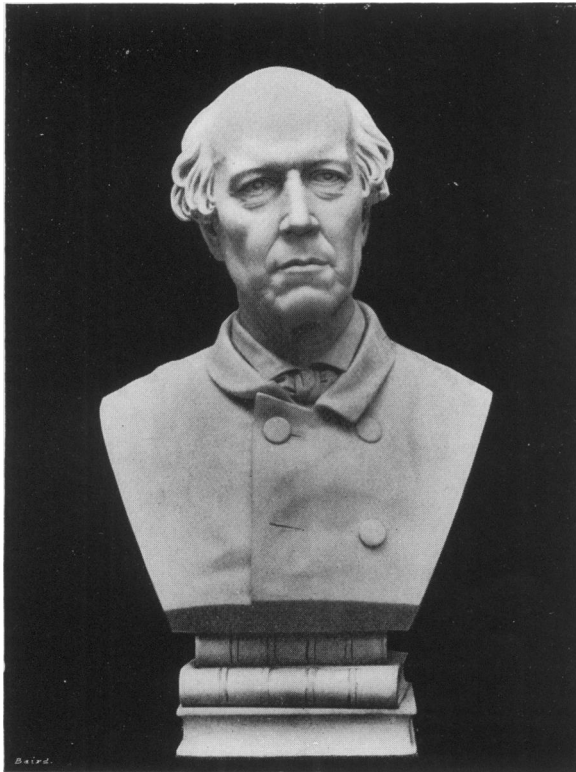
THOMAS HENRY,
Surgeon, Apothecary,
and Practitioner of Midwifery,
THOMAS STREET, ARMAGH,

who served an apprenticeship to one of the first of his profession in the City of Dublin, and attended at the different courses of Lectures in that College on Anatomy, Midwifery, Physics, and Chemistry, etc., and served Surgeon in the King's Navy last War, attended the Royal Hospitals of Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Navy Hospital of Dublin, etc. From 13 years' extensive practice, as above, he has a perfect knowledge of the methods of all the Physicians and Surgeons of Dublin, an accurate knowledge of various Medicines, etc. There is no case can turn up to him that will be new, either as to knowledge or method of cure. The success that has attended his practice universally in a circle of 20 miles round Armagh for 8 years is too well known to require comment. He has discovered a method by which he has cured perfectly some thousands of the Scurvy, Evil, and Leprosy, Diseases hitherto looked upon incurable, unless in the palliative way, by inward medicines that require no confinement, even in the extremest cold, and never fail producing the effect when their use are continued in proportion to the Disease, even those who have them hereditary. Sold in pots from 2s. 2d. to 5s. 5d.

Quis sciat causam solvit morbum.

N.B.—His shop is stocked with a general assortment of the best and freshest drugs imported into this Kingdom, carefully prepared after the Dublin method.

P.S.—A few merchants may be well accommodated in private to pay their cloth, with good stalling for Horses, Pump and every other convenience.



HENRY MacCORMAC, M.D.

**BLOCK KINDLY LENT BY
THE CURATOR, BELFAST
MUNICIPAL MUSEUM**